

Attorney Docket No.: UT-0030  
Inventors: Rao et al.  
Serial No.: 09/736,728  
Filing Date: December 14, 2000  
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This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of obtaining glial cells comprising:

(a) providing glial restricted precursor cells expressing A2B5 antigen which are phenotypically distinct from O-2A progenitor cells and which are isolated by positive immunoselection with an A2B5 antibody selecting cells expressing A2B5 antigen; and

(b) plating the glial restricted precursor cells expressing A2B5 antigen which are phenotypically distinct from O-2A progenitor cells under differentiating conditions, thereby causing the glial restricted precursor cells expressing A2B5 antigen which are phenotypically distinct from O-2A progenitor cells to differentiate into glial cells.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said differentiating conditions comprise addition to growth medium of an effective amount of a factor that promotes differentiation into non-process bearing A2B5<sup>+</sup>GFAP<sup>+</sup> astrocytes and said glial cells are A2B5<sup>+</sup>GFAP<sup>+</sup> astrocytes.

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Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14 wherein said factor that promotes differentiation into non-process bearing A2B5<sup>+</sup> GFAP<sup>+</sup> astrocytes comprises fetal calf serum.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said differentiating conditions comprise addition to growth medium of an effective amount of a factor that promotes differentiation into process bearing A2B5<sup>+</sup>GFAP<sup>+</sup> astrocytes and said glial cells are A2B5<sup>+</sup>GFAP<sup>+</sup> astrocytes.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein said factor that promotes differentiation into process bearing A2B5<sup>+</sup>GFAP<sup>+</sup> astrocytes comprises ciliary neurotrophic factor and basic fibroblast growth factor.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein said differentiating conditions comprise addition to growth medium of an effective amount of a factor that promotes differentiation into oligodendrocytes and said glial cells are oligodendrocytes.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 18 wherein said factor that promotes differentiation into oligodendrocytes comprises platelet-derived growth factor and thyroid hormone (T3).

Claims 20-48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (currently amended): A method for continuously propagating glial restricted precursor cells phenotypically

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distinct from O-2A progenitor cells comprising the steps of:

(a) providing said glial restricted precursor cells expressing A2B5 antigen which are phenotypically distinct from O-2A progenitor cells and which are isolated by positive immunoselection with an A2B5 antibody selecting cells expressing A2B5 antigen; and

(b) culturing said glial restricted precursor cells which are phenotypically distinct from O-2A progenitor cells in vitro in the presence of minimal essential salts and effective amounts of platelet derived growth factor and fibroblast growth factor.